

Jackie grew throughout their fifty years of marriage, so did their love for the church and communities of Northwest Florida.

A native of Milton, Florida, Fred Rogers has devoutly served Northwest Florida as Pastor of Milton First Assembly of God since 1960. He is a member of the Kiwanis Club and a member of the Santa Rosa County Ministerial Association.

Out of her passion for teaching and love for children, Jackie Rogers has proudly served in the Santa Rosa County Florida school district, where she currently teaches Kindergarten and first grade Sunday school.

Fred and Jackie continue to demonstrate their strong family values and unwavering faith in God as loving parents and grandparents.

Through their leadership and dedication, Fred and Jackie honorably and spiritually served the church and the Northwest Florida community. Northwest Florida is truly blessed to have them as her own. Together, they have touched a number of lives, and the impact they have made on the community will leave a lasting impression.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is a great honor for me to recognize Reverend Fred and Jackie Rogers for their love and dedicated service to the communities of Northwest Florida. I would like to offer my sincere congratulations in celebration of their 50 years together and recognize that they serve as an inspiration to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained and missed one of Tuesday's rollcall votes, No. 877. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3096, the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2007.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN SCOTT SHIMP

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor a brave man from my District, Captain Scott Shimp, a 1998 graduate of Bayard High School. Captain Shimp died last week when his Black Hawk helicopter crashed during training exercises in Alabama.

Scott was an enthusiastic young man who loved serving his country. A consummate soldier and a graduate of West Point Academy, he was a credit to the Bayard community—a community which has rallied around those he left behind.

My heart goes out to Scott's family and all affected by his death. We owe him a debt of gratitude we can repay by living up to the example he set in his personal and professional life.

IN RECOGNITION OF DANNY VARGAS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I want to call to the attention of the House the outstanding public service of Raul Danny Vargas to his fellow citizens of Virginia's 10th Congressional District.

Danny took the helm of my 10th District Hispanic Advisory Committee when it was created over 2 years ago. As its first chairman, he has directed the group's efforts in providing a forum for issues of interest to the Hispanic community in northern Virginia and advising me on ways to assist the community and respond to its unique concerns.

Through his extraordinary leadership, the group's membership as well as its outreach to the community have grown and advanced. Danny has led the committee in advising me on issues of importance to the Hispanic community, such as the infiltration of gangs in our community and how to respond. He led the advisory panel in organizing a gang prevention town hall meeting conducted in Spanish in the Herndon community. The committee also has addressed education and immigration issues of importance to the growing Hispanic population in northern Virginia.

Danny is living the "American Dream." He was raised in a single parent home along with three other siblings by his mother, who immigrated to America from Puerto Rico. Danny served his country as an Air Force intelligence officer before launching his own company, VARCom Solutions, a full-service marketing, sales, and communications support company located in Herndon. An active leader in the business, Hispanic and at-large communities, he has served as chairman of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce. He also was appointed as a board member for two nonprofit organizations in northern Virginia—Northern Virginia Family Service and the Fairfax Partnership for Youth, lending his expertise in marketing, communications, media, and public relations to these organizations and their missions to serve the needs of families and youth in the region.

Danny Vargas is a proven and respected business and community leader. As he turns over the reins of the 10th District Hispanic Advisory Committee, I want to thank him on behalf of the people of the 10th District for his hard work and dedication to making the 10th District a better place to live and work and raise a family.

HONORING CHARLES W. "WES" KEARNEY, SR.

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, Charles W. "Wes" Kearney, Sr. of Brandon, Florida, passed away on August 11, 2007, in the loving presence of his friends and family.

Wes was a well-known and respected member of the community, whose entrepreneurial

spirit and generous character not only defined him as a person, but played an important role in the lives of others.

During World War II, Wes served in the United States Navy, joining the United States in the fight to defend our Nation and to defend those who could not defend themselves. His service to this country is honored and greatly admired.

Following the War, Wes grabbed a hold of the American dream and eventually founded many companies under the Kearney name. Through generous philanthropy, Wes used the success of his businesses to improve his community and help others.

Wes will be best remembered as a man whose virtue and integrity is unmatched, as well as someone who was deeply dedicated to his family and friends.

He leaves behind a beautiful family, and is survived by his lovely wife Joanne, his son Bryan and wife Dawn and their children, Skye and Sean; son Barry and wife Susan and their children, Tara and Logan; and son Bing and his children, son Chad and his wife Shayna, Chase, Clay and Charlie.

As we celebrate his life, we know that he will be dearly missed.

IN HONOR OF THE A.I. DUPONT HIGH SCHOOL TIGER MARCHING BAND

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the A.I. DuPont High School Tiger Marching Band as they prepare for their fifth appearance in the Rose Parade. The school, located in Wilmington, Delaware, has worked hard to create a strong musical program, for which they should be very proud. The band's musical performances, which are selected and designed by the students, are always an exciting event for the entire community.

The band boasts an impressive record worthy of high praise. Their performances have inspired audiences at countless local, national and even international events. Some of these notable appearances include; two Orange Bowl Parades, two Presidential Inaugurations, the dedication of the Vietnam War Memorial, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, a Peace Parade in Vatican City and four Rose Parades—soon to be five. They are currently the most televised high school band in America and have placed first in every marching competition they have entered since 1989. That is why it is no surprise that when I was asked to recommend a band to represent Delaware in the 2008 Memorial Day Parade in Washington, DC, the A.I. DuPont Tigers quickly came to mind.

There are currently 265 members in the Tiger Marching Band, all of whom have worked tirelessly to carry on the strong Tiger tradition set before them. Their efforts are evident, which is why they have been invited to participate in the 119th Rose Parade this January in Pasadena, California. This makes them the only band outside California to march in the parade four times under the same director. I am confident they will represent Delaware well in California on New Year's Day.

I would like to wish the A.I. DuPont High School Tiger Marching Band the best of luck in this exciting period of preparation for the upcoming Rose Parade. The hard work and dedication put forth by all of those involved is truly commendable and I can think of no band more capable of representing Delaware at the Rose Parade this January.

CREDIBILITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, next week I will be traveling to New York City as a Congressional Delegate to the United Nations General Assembly. It's no secret, Mr. Speaker, that I believe the United Nations has a lot to do in order to restore the trust of the American people.

Since its inception, one of the primary objectives of the United Nations has been to protect and advance fundamental human rights around the world. It's a noble cause. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, in my view, this goal has been tarnished by the problem of corruption, hypocrisy, and an unapologetic bias against the state of Israel. This kind of behavior is unacceptable and the United Nations must be held accountable.

We all know about the fraud, mismanagement, and abuse prevalent in the Oil-for-Food program. The program was established to bring humanitarian relief to the people of Iraq and it fell victim to despicable corruption by U.N. officials. Yet, since the scandal was first discovered and reports were issued, little has been done by the United Nations to ensure reform.

The Human Rights Council was established in 2006, to replace the U.N. Human Rights Commission which had become so discredited that Secretary-General Kofi Annan admitted, "the declining credibility [of the Commission] has cast a shadow on the reputation of the United Nations system as a whole . . ." The mission of the Commission—not to mention the United Nations as a whole—was questioned by the election of some of the world's worse human rights abusers to serve as members of the Commission. The record of the new Human Rights Council is dismally better; of the 47 members only 25 were considered "free" states.

This Council has also demonstrated a strong bias against Israel. In the first year of its operations, more than 70 percent of the country-specific resolutions were on Israel. This disproportionate focus on Israel and disregard for holding major human rights violators across the world accountable cannot be tolerated. It goes against the most basic, fundamental principles of the U.N.

I appreciate the mission of the United Nations, Mr. Speaker, but I'm concerned about the way it's being carried out. The U.N. has got to take reform seriously if they plan on gaining the support of the American people.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING THE FORTY FORT MEETING HOUSE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Forty Fort Meeting House which is celebrating its 200th anniversary as a place for citizens to congregate for the purpose of worshipping God and serving their communities.

A national historic landmark, the Forty Fort Meeting House, located in the Wyoming Valley of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, is the oldest existing house of worship in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Two hundred years ago, the colonists viewed the discussion of religion and politics as fundamental to the success and prosperity of their community and they created an institution strictly for that purpose—the meeting house.

The origins of the Forty Fort Meeting House are rooted in colonial New England where members of the local community gathered inside plain wooden structures twice on Sunday to worship and during the midweek to discuss community affairs and elect local officials.

The Forty Fort Meeting House served as a place of worship until 1837 when the Presbyterians and Methodists built their own churches, leaving the Meeting House and adjoining cemetery to become neglected.

In 1860, the Forty Fort Cemetery Association was established and with it came a renewed sense of responsibility for stewardship of the Meeting House. William Swetland, the association's first president, replaced the roof, painted the exterior and repaired the fence. For the next 130 years, the structure received only cosmetic repairs to the exterior.

Today, efforts are underway to restore the structure through an endowment project that seeks to raise funds for the work and to continue preservation well into the future.

The Forty Fort Meeting House stands as a legacy to the spiritual fortitude, fierce determination and moral courage of the Connecticut Yankees who settled the Wyoming Valley.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Forty Fort Meeting House and in urging citizens from throughout the region to support the ongoing preservation project fund raiser to insure that a vital part of our Nation's past remains intact so future generations can appreciate how their ancestors laid the foundation for our present great society.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT AL LEWIS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Al Lewis on his retirement from the City of Newark, California, after serving over 29 years as a police officer and

sergeant and 31 years as a member of the Newark Police Department.

Sergeant Lewis began his career with the Newark Police Department as a reserve police officer in January 1976 and served in this capacity until his promotion to the rank of police officer in January 1978. He was selected as the department's first school resource officer in 1988 and was promoted to the rank of sergeant in February 1991.

Sergeant Lewis was most recently assigned to the Patrol Division, but has also served as a range instructor and supervised the K9 unit. His passion has been the police K9 program, which he is responsible for bringing back to the department.

He has also held numerous specialized assignments during his tenure including patrol officer, traffic officer, property detective, field training officer, weaponless defense instructor, police reserve officer program coordinator, substitute DARE instructor, member of the accident review board, SWAT member, SWAT leader, SWAT sniper, SWAT sergeant, liaison to the Newark communications volunteers, member of C.O.P.P.S. design team, and acting lieutenant for the detective division.

Sergeant Lewis has been a key member of the Citizen Police Academy teaching staff, covering many of the courses taught during the annual 10-week class. He has earned the Reserve Police Officer of the Year award in 1976 and the Police Officer of the Year award in 1982. In addition, he has also received numerous other department awards throughout his career.

I join the Newark Police Department in thanking Sergeant Al Lewis for his years of service and commitment to the City of Newark and the community.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce H.R. _____ which includes "new construction" as qualified restaurant property to take advantage of the reduction from 39½ years to 15 years for depreciation. H.R. _____ also makes permanent the already existing 15-year depreciation for improvements to restaurant property.

Madam Speaker, depreciation schedules for commercial real estate have not been significantly revised since they were established. Currently, commercial real estate generally has a 39½-year depreciable life for the original building and for any subsequent renovations or improvements to the building. Changes have been made in recent years to allow certain industries that directly compete with restaurants to benefit from shorter schedules. These schedules range from seven years for food outlets located in amusement parks to 15 years for those in gas stations and convenience stores. This favorable depreciation schedule has allowed convenience stores to expand and improve their foodservice operations.

The American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 established that restaurants could depreciate qualified restaurant building improvement costs over 15 years for property in place by